

Frank Fox was the president of the St. Croix Chamber of Commerce from 2002 to 2003. But his service to St. Croix and the entire Territory did not begin or end there. He lent his time and talents to a variety of task forces, commissions and committees such as the Governor's Economic Development Committee, The Cruise Ship Task Force, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, the Navy League, the Landmark Society, Our Town Frederiksted, and St. Croix Friends of Denmark to name but a few. He was also a member of Rotary Mid Island.

But even beyond these Frank and his beloved wife, Beverly were everywhere. They truly adopted St. Croix as home, and did everything they could to make it a better, and more vibrant place for everyone.

Mr. Speaker, Regrettably, due to pressing matters up here, I will not be there at the memorial service. And I know that this is where Frank would insist that I be.

Frank lent his expertise to me, during a very difficult political time—when I had introduced and was shepherding the bill to create a Chief Financial Officer for the Virgin Islands. Often as he offered his opinion or advice, he would preface it with “For whatever it is worth.” I can tell you, and others who benefited from his counsel would attest, whatever he said was worth a lot!

I had the pleasure of serving with Frank on the VI EpsCor (Virgin Islands Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research), where he was the first Chairman. He gave generously of his time, and expertise, and led us through a very successful launching in which the University received the first ever grant to a territory.

He will be fondly remembered for all of the above, but never more than every August when we as a community gather to greet new teachers. It was during his tenure as Chamber president that this activity, which is now tradition, began. It demonstrates the depth of his insight into what is important to the future of the Virgin Islands, and more importantly his commitment to that future. He knew and showed us through his life and service, the importance of the “village,” and its responsibility to our children.

Mr. Speaker, we were all shocked to hear that this man, so full of life, had left us. We will always be grateful for his friendship, and for his service to our community.

We send our heartfelt condolences to his wife Beverly and his family. And we thank her for sharing this wonderful man with us so generously.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. MARY TOWLES SASSEEN WILSON

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 2004

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy of Mrs. Mary Towles Sasseen Wilson, a distinguished native of Henderson, Kentucky, which I have the pleasure of representing in the House. In recognizing Mrs. Wilson, we also pay tribute to all mothers in this great Nation, as she is responsible in large part for the origination of the Mother's Day holiday.

In 1860, Mrs. Wilson was born Mary Towles Sasseen in western Kentucky. She spent most of her life in Henderson as a school teacher. Had she never become involved in the development and spread of Mother's Day, she still would have been recalled fondly by many western Kentuckians as a tireless, caring, and effective educator.

However, Wilson's story was not to end there. Spurred by the love and devotion she felt for her own mother, in 1887 Mary Sasseen held her first public Mother's Day celebration at the Center Street School in Henderson. In 1893 she published and dedicated to her mother a pamphlet entitled Mother's Day Celebration, which defined the holiday and suggested readings and activities suitable for its celebration.

In subsequent years she worked diligently toward the introduction of Mother's Day observations at schools and towns in Kentucky and elsewhere. When Sasseen attempted in 1899 to become one of the region's earliest female elected officials by running for Superintendent of Public Instruction, commentary regarding the campaign cited her as “the author and originator of Mother's Day.”

Although Sasseen's attempts to win elective office failed, she continued to work for the furtherance of Mother's Day in America. In 1904 she married Judge William Marshall Wilson and moved to Freeport, Florida, which was to be the site of her untimely death in 1906. Less than a decade later, in response to the efforts of other notable Mother's Day advocates in the tradition of Mrs. Wilson, President Woodrow Wilson signed a joint resolution designating the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day.

Mrs. Wilson's efforts were recognized by the Kentucky General Assembly in 1926, when it passed a resolution acclaiming Mary Towles Sasseen as “the originator of the idea of the celebration of Mother's Day” and giving her credit for “her splendid work in attempting to bring to the minds of children everywhere the full admiration, respect, and love due our mothers.”

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that these are efforts no less worthy of commendation today than when they were first carried out and honored over a century ago. It is my distinct pleasure to bring to the attention of this House the noteworthy legacy of Mrs. Wilson and all of the mothers she worked so hard to honor.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICK RENZI

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 2004

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, October 5, 2004, I was unavoidably detained and missed the last vote of the day. Had I been present I would have voted “yea” on H.R. 5011, the Military Personnel Financial Services Protection Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEBORAH PRYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 2004

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, on the legislative day of Tuesday, October 5, 2004, the House had a vote on rollcall 494, on H.R. 163, a bill to provide for the common defense by requiring that all young persons in the United States, including women, perform a period of military service or a period of civilian service in furtherance of the national defense and homeland security, and for other purposes. Had I been present, I would have voted “no.”

The House also had a vote on rollcall 495, on H.R. 2929, a bill to protect users of the Internet from unknowing transmission of their personally identifiable information through spyware programs, and for other purposes and rollcall 496, on H.R. 5011, a bill to prevent the sale of abusive insurance and investment products to military personnel. Had I been present, I would have voted “aye” on both.

HONORING CITY OF MONTEVIDEO

HON. COLLIN C. PETERSON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 2004

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the City of Montevideo who received the National Civic League 2004 All-America City Award.

The City of Montevideo is located in the southern part of the 7th Congressional District of Minnesota, where the prairie meets the Minnesota River Valley. Montevideo is a small rural community that has made a large impact in the surrounding area and through the Nation.

Although I have only represented Montevideo for a short period, they have been a shining example of a progressive community that has been able to keep their identity in a changing world. Most people round these parts have a mutual respect for preserving the outdoors while balancing economic growth and development. People who live in Montevideo maintain a quality of life filled with family and civic responsibilities. They take pride in public service and volunteering.

If the All-America City Award is described as “. . . a Nobel Prize for constructive citizenship,” then the City of Montevideo is an excellent example. The All-America City Award encourages and recognizes civic excellence, honoring the communities in which citizens, government, business, and non-profit organizations demonstrate successful resolution of critical community issues.

Whether you are picnicking along the Chipewewa River or biking aside the Minnesota River, the City of Montevideo is a wonderful example of what a community is supposed to be. I am proud to represent the City of Montevideo and congratulate them on their outstanding performance among a Nation of communities.